Torres Strait Island Regional Council Services include:

"Empowering our people, in our decision, in our culture, for our future"

- Water & sewerage
- Waste
- Child care
- Planning
- Environmental Health
- Housing
- Indigenous Knowledge Centres
- Roads

jobSPOT

- Childcare Group Leader (Toddler) - Badu
- Community Police Officer - Hammond
- Community Police Officer - Boigu
- HACC Home Helper - Dauan
- HACC Home Helper - St Pauls
- HACC Home Helper - Boigu
- HACC Home Helper - Badu
- HACC Home Helper - Iama
- HACC Home Helper - Mabuiag
- Cost Accountant
- Casual Engineering Officer/ Plant Operator - Mabuiag
- Stores Person
- Divisional Manager - Masig
- Council Cleaner - Erub
- Legal Officer

For position descriptions please contact May Mosby on:

Phone: (07) 4034 5731 Fax: (07) 4034 5726

Email: recruitment@tsirc.qld.gov.au

Torres Strait Islanders are encouraged to apply

Torres Strait Island REGIONAL COUNCIL

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL
TSIRC Lot 12 Francis Road Hammond Island Qld 4875
Ph: (07) 4048 6200 Fax: (07) 40691868
PO Box 501, Thursday Island Qld 4875

Like us on facebook

Facebook has taken the world by storm in terms of communicating with target audiences.
We wish to share our news with all of our constituents including those on Facebook. So if you have an account, don't forget to 'Like' Torres Strait Island Regional Council!
Share, keep updated and give us feedback!

2013 HAVE YOUR SAY!

TSIRC value the opinions and idea's of its constituents. We welcome all feedback on any Council related topics and are willing to publish story ideas or images that you send to us. For further information email info@tsirc.qld.gov.au

For those of you who are unaware, there is a specific website that has been created and dedicated to Torres Strait Climate Change.
The website aims to draw attention to the issues of inundation, erosion and rising sea levels in the Torres Strait.
It features all forms of media regarding climate change in the Torres Strait such as letters, video's, radio interviews, newspaper articles and media releases.
The site is interactive and allows visitors to comment on issues, sign a petition and have their say.
Climate Change is a significant issue in the Torres Strait.
For more information visit:

torrestraitclimate.org

Torres Strait Island REGIONAL COUNCIL

Strait Talk

Kawau Kuikumabaigau Yangukudul

The official newsletter of the TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

July 2013

What's inside...

Cert III Wast Management | IKC Workshop | Blessing of Infrastructure | Mabo Celebrations | Students join TSIRC meeting

No prior advises will be signed by Council until Queensland Health and related authorities can provide assurance that the threat of TB transmittal is negligible.

Councillors will continue to refuse to authorise permits for PNG residents from treaty villages as a result of a joint Council endorsement which was mutually agreed upon as the best step to take in order to keep all TSIRC communities safe from the threat of TB.

Council believes that the problem and risk of TB spreading is being underestimated.

It is a real issue and all departments including the government, need to start thinking about the detrimental effects that a TB outbreak may cause.

Council's priority is its communities. TSIRC wish to inform all community members that this decision has been made for their safety. It was not an easy decision to make as we feel for our families in PNG.

When Council is provided with the reassurance it requires from Queensland Health, communities will be notified.

Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mayor Fred Gela

Conditions of Entry for Visitors

If you are NOT a :-

1. Resident of the destination island; or
2. Native Title Traditional Owner of the destination island; or
3. Traditional Visitor under the Torres Strait/ PNG Treaty...

..you ARE a Visitor and must: -

1. Give prior advice to Councillors;
2. Give prior advice to RNTBC; and
3. Sign visitors book.

A failure to comply with Visitor conditions of entry may result in issue of a fine or being asked to leave the island by an Authorised Person.

For more information and Councillor and RNTBC contact details see our website: ww.tsirc.qld.gov.au

Visitor sign-in books are located at Council Offices in all TSIRC communities.

Professional Development for Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) and Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access sites

The State Library of Queensland hosted a three-day Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) workshop to provide professional development for IKC coordinators and staff from non-IKC public internet access sites. The program covered a range of topics from intensive technical knowledge to planning interactive ICT-based community activities for all ages using iPads. The workshop was funded by the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access (RIPIA) and featured participants from Badu Island, Mabuiag Island, Iama Island, Boigu Island, Warraber Island, Dauan Island, Saibai Island, Masig Island, Poruma Island, Hammond Island.

Historic church needs restoration!

The Mabuiag church is not currently being used because its roof is in desperate need of repair.
The church has historical significance to the region as one of the first churches built in the Torres Strait.
Ten Councillors agreed to provide initial support toward the restoration of the roof using $500 each from their discretionary funds totalling $5000, which was matched by the Mayor who contributed $5000 from his discretionary fund, equalling a total of $10,000 being provided to initial restorations.

Referendum deferred

Message from the LGAQ President

Queensland councils are angry and disappointed at the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's decision not to honour the Federal Parliament's commitment to hold a referendum to change the Constitution to protect vital federal funding for community infrastructure.
Local Government Association of Queensland President Margaret de Wit said the referendum had the overwhelming support of the Parliament yet Mr Rudd had chosen not to proceed.
Cr de Wit said everything had been in place for the referendum to be put and councils had invested enormous resources in ensuring there was a majority Yes vote.
"We say to Mr Rudd: this is one big bit of policy business you have chosen to leave unfinished before going to the polls," she said.
"Opinion polls showed that Queenslanders were ready to support this referendum in big numbers so they are also entitled to feel disappointed by this act of political expediency. Timing was not an issue. Mr Rudd could have gone ahead with this referendum if he wanted to."
Cr de Wit said the LGAQ would work with the Australian Local Government Association to ensure that both Labor and the Coalition recommitted to holding the referendum in the next parliamentary term.
Once again, thank you all for your efforts, as we now make some important decisions on how we proceed from here.
Thank you,

Margaret de Wit
LGAQ President

Margaret de Wit
Local Government Association
Queensland President

If it's broken, tag it - or report it to Council

It is important that any broken, damaged or otherwise unsafe plant, furniture or equipment is tagged 'Out of Service' so that people are aware that it should not be used.

There are two types of tags that TSIRC use – the yellow and black 'CAUTION' tag is used to inform people that they should not use the item as there is a hazard associated with its use. For example, this type of tag would be used on a brocken chair – the hazard being an injury if the chair collapsed because a wheel was missing.

The second type of tag that TSIRC use is the red, white and black 'DANGER' tag. This tag is used to warn people that if they use or operate the item there is a very serious risk involved. For example, this type of tag would be used on faulty electrical equipment or on a vehicle if the brakes were not working - there is a serious risk of death from being electricuted or from driving a vehicle without brakes.

TSIRC like to keep its communities safe, so if you come across a 'Caution' or 'Danger' tag, please refrain from using this item.

Also, if you notice that a piece of TSIRC equipment is broken or faulty - please notify your Council office so that they can 'tag' it.

Students get a taste of a TSIRC Council meeting

Mabuiag Senior Students visited the recent Council meeting that was held in their Community to experience how the Local Government of their region performs its meetings and general business.

The students sat in and listened to Councillors, the Mayor and CEO speak about general items on the Council agenda and they were also taught how to use the microphones, voting systems and iPads.

Mayor Gela gave the students a motivating speech and said that one day, one of them could be representing the community as a Councillor and could be speaking with the leaders of the region to help make decisions for their people.

A 30 Year Vision for Queensland

The Queensland Government is currently undertaking a public consultation to shape the future of Queensland. The Queensland State Government has said that the Queensland Plan will outline the shared vision for the next 30 years and identify local and statewide priorities.

The TSIRC will be developing a submission to the State Government to make sure the needs of the Torres Strait are represented in the plan.

Information on the plan can be found at: http://queenslandplan.qld.gov.au

If you would like to hear more about the plan and how to get involved please call or email Katherine Wiggins, Senior Executive Support Officer on Katherine.wiggins@tsirc.qld.gov.au or 4034 5762.

The Coming of the Light

The Coming of the Light festival marks the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in the Torres Strait. The missionaries landed at Erub Island on 1 July 1871, introducing Christianity to the region. This is a significant day for TSIRC constituents, who are predominantly of Christian faith.

Many religious and cultural ceremonies are held across the Torres Strait on 1 July each year.

It is one of the most significant celebrations of the year for the community of Erub Island and this year a plaque was unveiled which was created by the building team on Erub as a request of Uncle Selly Thaiday.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

The United Nations International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on 9 August each year to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. It's an event that also seeks to recognise the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.

This year's dialogue will be on the topic of 'Indigenous peoples building alliances: Honouring treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements'. The theme aims to highlight the importance of these treaties for both indigenous and non-indigenous people in bringing these documents into action at a grassroots level, and cooperating to pursue common goals.

Congratulations to our Deputy CEO Dania Ahwang, on her graduation. Dania completed her Master of Business Administration through Deakin University as part of her development plan through Council.

Dania said that the knowledge she has gained through her studies has enhanced and expanded her own capabilities and will assist her in performing her position with Council to the best of her ability (pictured right).

Also TSIRC staff Rhiannon Cash and Kathy Cochran have completed their Diplomas of Business/Management which will also assist them to perform their duties within Council more efficiently (pictured below). Go girls!

Waste Management Trainees

TSIRC Waste Management Trainees have completed five qualifications during recent training including Certificate III Waste Management, Apply First Aid Plus, Conduct skid steer loader operations, Conduct wheel loader operations and Construction White Card.

Training organisation, Train Up, facilitated the training and couldn't speak highly enough of TSIRC staff.

Proprietor of Train Up, Kieron Kelly said that the Waste Management Trainees where on time every day, never left early, were very eager to learn and showed their initiative by asking questions and showing interest.

All of the trainee's involved completed their traineeships and will be receiving certificates and licences.

Congratulations on behalf of TSIRC to all of our Waste Management Trainee's!

blessing of Infrastructure Mabuiag

Nine infrastructure projects were blessed on Mabuiag at an official blessing on July 16.
Councillors, community members, Mayor and CEO were all present for the blessings which were performed by Father Basa Banu.
A Welcome to the Country speech by PBC Chair Mr Terrence Whap opened the event before each infrastructure location was visited and blessed.
These included the Dam Covers, Water Shed, Anzac Memorial, Airport Terminal, Airport Fencing, Drainage, Roads, STP Station and New Dolphins.
All of these projects have been completed over time from a range of funding programs including Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS), Heavy Equipment Management & Training Programme (HEMTP) and rolled out by TSIRC.

Relationships Australia

Relationships Australia is a leading provider of relationship support services for individuals, families and communities. They aim to support people to achieve positive and respectful relationships.

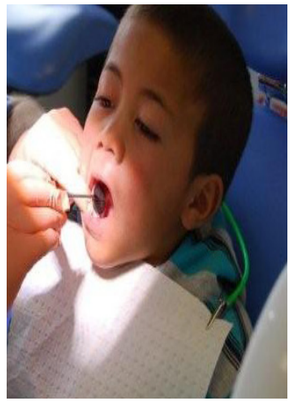
The community-based, not-for-profit Australian organisation offer services are for all members of the community, regardless of religious belief, age, gender, sexual orientation, lifestyle choice, cultural background or economic circumstances.

Relatoinships Australia will be visiting communities within the TSIRC Region in the coming months. They offer services that include counselling, family dispute resolution (mediation) and a range of family and community support and education programs.

We need a regular dental service!

There is a petition circulating each of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council communities calling for the Queensland Government as represented by the Department of Health to meet its health obligations to the people of the Torres Strait by committing to the provision of regular dental services within each of the divisions of the TSIRC local government area.

We encourage all of our constituents to sign the petition to support the request for a regular dental service.



SAFETY AT THE WORKPLACE

TSIRC's Manager of Safety and Training Mr Des Tillack visits the communities of the TSIRC region on a regular basis to advise employees of Workplace Health and Safety standards and practices.

Mr Tillack along with TSIRC Workplace Health and Safety Officer Teena Akiba, recently visited Badu Island where he met with the Engineering team to discuss sewer entry into a confined space and the day to day operations of their work in relation to safety.

It is important that all of TSIRC staff follow appropriate Health and Safety procedures to ensure we are safe within the workplace and that no unnecessary accidents occur within our communities.

TSIRC Building Unit Update

The TSIRC Building Unit are achieving outstanding results having completed the 2012/13 financial year on a high, after achieving a greater than 95 per cent completion rate of the work orders on their books.

The TSIRC Building Unit is currently concentrating on repairs and maintenance matters within Torres Strait Island Regional Council communities in conjunction with QBuild (recently renamed BAS – Building and Asset Services).

BAS are conducting an audit of every home to identify matters of health and safety concerns. They will then raise work orders for our Building Unit to carry out the repairs.

The TSIRC Building Unit has also recently tendered on six new houses and is currently waiting to hear back from the Department of Housing and Public Works as to whether or not the tenders have been successful.

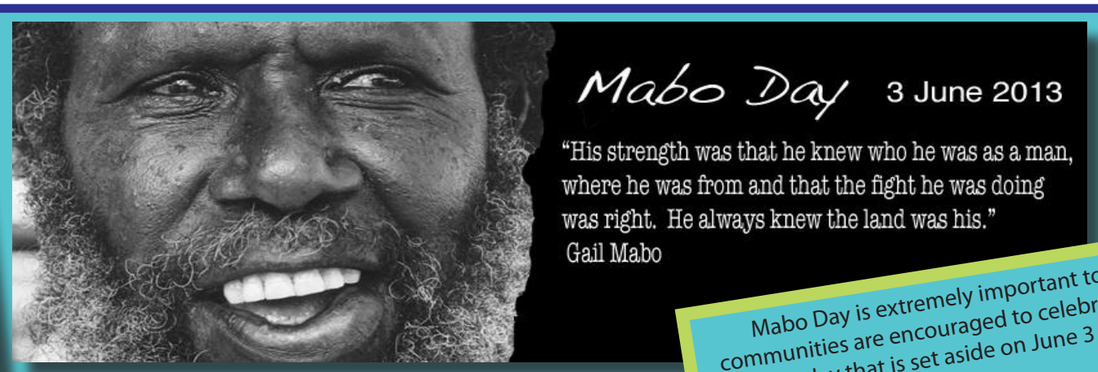
TSIRC are very proud of its Building Unit and the great work they are achieving on-ground for the benefit of

Dauan Fire Training

Strait Talk was provided with some great photos of the Fire and Rescue workers training on-ground on Dauan recently.

It is reassuring to know that our communties have well-trained persons on hand in case of emergencies.

Mer



MABO DAY

Mabo Day is extremely important to TSIRC and all communities are encouraged to celebrate the significant day that is set aside on June 3 each year.

TSIRC places such a great importance on Mabo Day that we have developed annual awards in honour of the Late Eddie Mabo and the tremendous legacy that his victory in the High Court has left for Torres Strait Islanders.

Please see the list of award recipients to the right, including our very own Mayor Gela who was nominated by the public and voted as award recipient by the judging panel. Mayor Gela was suprised with his award at the TSIRC Meeting on Mer last month.

Dauan

Ugar

Saibai

Erub

2013 TSIRC Mabo Day Award Recipients:

The Persistence, Dedication and Advocacy of Rights and Heritage Award (Regional):
Fred Gela

The Regional Artist Award:
Fred David

Local Knowledge Award (1 per community):
Saibai – Mebai Warusam
Mabuiag - Cygnet Repu
Dauan - Mobita Harry
Ugar – Dorothy Dorante
Warraber – Nelson Billy
Mer – Douglas Passi
Erub – Selly G. Thaiday
Poruma – Olandi Pearson
St Pauls –Sam Nako Kris
Kubin –Paul Tom
Masig – Masig Elders Group
Badu – Maluwap Nona
Boigu - Nelson Gibuma
Iama – Iama Elders Group
Hammond – Henry Garnier

Traditional Practice Award (1 per community):
Saibai – Sedrick Waia
Mabuiag - Lency Bani
Dauan - Dauan Island State School
Ugar – Tom Stephen
Warraber – Make Mari
Mer – Lilliah Noah
Erub – Billy Bourne
Poruma – Alice Fauid
St Pauls – Georg Eroa Kris
Kubin – Lillian Bosun
Masig – Masig Dance Group
Badu – Dick Williams
Boigu - Markie Marama
Yam – Samuel Baragud
Hammond – Jeleko Pearson